

United States, including Clark Atlanta University, Duke University, Howard University, Brandeis University, Columbia University, Fisk University, Morehouse College, Princeton University and Williams College. John Lewis is the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize and the NAACP Spingarn Medal. John Lewis is also the recipient of the John F. Kennedy "Profile in Courage Award" for lifetime achievement and the National Education Association Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award.

As a student, John Lewis organized sit-in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1961, John Lewis volunteered to participate in the Freedom Rides, which were organized to challenge segregation at interstate bus terminals across the South. Lewis risked his life and was beaten severely by mobs for participating in the Rides. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, from 1963 to 1966, Lewis was the Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he helped form. SNCC was largely responsible for the sit-ins and other activities of students in the struggle for civil rights. Lewis, at the age of 23, was one of the planners and a keynote speaker at the historic "March on Washington" in August 1963. In 1964, John Lewis coordinated SNCC efforts to organize voters' registration drives and community action programs during the "Mississippi Freedom Summer." The following year, Lewis led one of the most dramatic nonviolent protests of the Movement. Along with fellow activist, Hosea Williams, John Lewis led over 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965. Alabama state troopers attacked the marchers in a confrontation that became known as "Bloody Sunday." That fateful march and a subsequent march between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This is an appropriate tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to promoting human rights and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you.

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, today we are debating this Administration's request for an \$87 billion bailout occasioned by its failed planning—or lack of planning for post-war Iraq. We are asked to pass this \$87 billion despite the fact that the Bush Administration has not articulated a coherent and workable underlying strategy to accomplish our mission and

bring our troops home safely and soon. It is either unwilling or incapable of doing so.

The only way Congress can ensure for the American people that such a strategy exists and that it has a reasonable chance of success is by using its power of the purse. We are dealing with an Administration that already has a nearly \$400 billion Department of Defense budget and that has already received one supplemental appropriation for some \$63 billion. Yet it fails to explain how or why our forces had tens of thousands of men and women without the proper Kevlar breast plates, Humvees without proper armor, and rancid water for 80 percent of the troops, or how those conditions continued, even after they knew in June that people were dying and being injured.

In addition, the Administration, in its zeal to get all the money now so it will not have to come back in 2004's election year to report to the American people, insinuates that a vote against this bailout is a vote against our troops and a vote to "cut and run." Nothing could be further from the truth. The Administration's own figures show that this is just another dissembling of the facts. According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, the Pentagon can stay in Iraq another 6 months without an additional penny in funds. But we have been prevented from seeking accountability from this administration as it asserts a need for "emergency funds."

Mr. Chairman, this Congress has a moral and practical responsibility to modify and condition these funds, and it is time to reject this "rubber-stamped blank check" and insist on the alternative that the Democrats want to put forward, but the majority and the administration have prohibited it from seeing the light of day.

We must work to re-align the funds for necessary equipment and quality of life matters that the Administration failed to do; reform the Contract provisions to eliminate cronyism concerns-like no-bid, cost plus Halliburton deals; eliminate outrageous and unnecessary projects and over spending that comes at the expense of domestic needs; consider other funding options to lessen and leverage U.S. investments, entice foreign cooperation and have it share some costs through its oil reserves. We should do all this—and foremost, we should only approve this bailout if the Administration presents a coherent and workable underlying strategy to accomplish our mission and bring our troops home safely and soon.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 2003*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for votes on Monday, October 20, 2003, due to a scheduling conflict in my district. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows:

Rollcall No. 563 (H. Res. 356): "aye"; rollcall No. 564 (H. Res. 400): "aye"; rollcall No. 565 (H.R. 3288): "aye."

#### THE PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ACT

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 2003*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, public safety agencies all across our nation are charged with ensuring the security of our critical infrastructures and the safety of our citizens and their communities. September 11 served to highlight how critical it is that our public safety agencies have the funding, spectrum, and equipment that they need to communicate with each other if they are to fulfill their mission.

The Federal Government has called upon our states and localities to be ever more vigilant and prepared against possible acts of terrorism.

Yet, as hearings in Congress and numerous reports have shown, our public safety agencies continue to lack the ability to communicate with each other interagency and interjurisdictionally. Firefighters cannot talk to police, local police cannot talk to state police, and so on and so on.

We expect our public safety agencies to act with haste and urgency to meet all of our needs and homeland security goals. Therefore, we must provide them with the tools they need to assist us. It is critical to fund radio equipment and technology so that they can talk to each other and be effective responders.

It is for this reason, that along with my colleagues VITO FOSSELLA and ELIOT ENGEL, I am introducing today the Public Safety Interoperability Implementation Act to address this urgent need.

Our bill looks at both the short term and long term funding needs that face our public safety agencies. We set up a Public Safety Communications Trust Fund in the U.S. Treasury, to be administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). While the program will be administered with collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security, we believe NTIA should take the lead.

The Department of Homeland Security has shown itself to be still sluggish in responding to the needs of our nation. We cannot afford to waste more time, money, or red tape. NTIA, an agency well familiar with telecommunications and information technology issues, will be better able to address the communications problems that exist and expeditiously move our nation's public safety agencies into state-of-the-art communications.

In the short term, the Public Safety Communications Trust Fund it will be funded by a 3-year grant program funded through the traditional appropriations cycle, authorizing up to \$500 million a year, so that grants may be provided to implement interoperability.

In the long run, the funding for the trust fund will come from the sales of spectrum conducted by the Federal Communications Commission. Our bill dedicates 50 percent of net revenue from future spectrum auctions to the trust fund.

Grants will be allocated to eligible entities to achieve interoperability, with multiyear grants available to ensure that agencies can develop long term plans without having to worry about funding from one year to the next. Preference will be given to those applicants that present